

**Minutes**  
**Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 6th, 2016**  
**11am-1:00pm**  
**First & Central Presbyterian Church**  
**1101 N Market St.**  
**Wilmington, DE 19801**  
**United States**

Attendees: Doug Gerdts, Pramod Mathur, Jennifer Hill, Max Wolf, Michael Beals, Kenneth Foster, Jeanne Cashman, John Sykes, Steven Boone.

Doug called the meeting to order at approx. 11am.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> Interfaith Dialogue Event:** Our next upcoming event will be a second Interfaith Dialogue for this Fall season. Our venue selected will be the CHEER Community Center located in Georgetown, DE. The date for this event will be Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:30am to 2:30pm. There will be a catering set up for food and AV with stage set up. There is a 100 person limit total for the venue. The Council is looking to create a better, more lively and relatable room dynamic with the audience in relation to the size of the audience and the size of the room as well as the distance between audience and the panel's position. The Council has expressed a slight dissatisfaction with the third question asked to panel members from the previous Spring Dialogue Event and is looking to change said question. The question to be changed is included in a related email to Council members. The Council has expressed an interest in looking to incite new ways to gain more questions and feedback from the audience when receiving questions during the upcoming dialogue.

The panel line-up for our faith representatives on the panel are Doug, Jeanne, Usman, Pramod, Michael, Flora, and Kenny. Interest has been expressed in inviting John Carney to the event to solidify future Council relations and prospects with next potential Governor. Max has offered to act as a liaison for local publicity for event. The Council is open to appealing for any scholarships, discounts, or other available funding due to our non-budgeted status. The address will be sent out with further details in an email closer to the event date.

**November 16<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Event for Governor Markell:** Our Thanksgiving event will be exactly such. An event giving and extending thanks to Governor Markell and to honor his service. The event will be held at First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington on Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 8:30pm.

The vision for the event will be as follows: procession in with instrumental music, Doug will perform a welcoming, the Wilmington Children's Chorus will perform a gathering song, faith representatives 1-3 will speak, then an instrumental interlude, the Governor will then speak if he pleases, faith representatives 4-7 will speak, a offering/collection will then be taken with an instrumental interlude, faith representatives 8-10 will speak, then there will be a group prayer,

the children's chorus will then perform the song "Let There Be Peace On Earth", a closing will then be performed by way of prayer with instrumental music playing during dismissal into reception.

We will have 10 representatives total from differing faiths as our speakers for the event. These representatives will include speakers from the following faiths and populations: Hinduism, Native American, Catholic, Sikh, Mormon, Baha'i, Buddhist, Jewish, and United Unitarian. Each faith will speak for approximately 2 minutes (or about 200 words) on gratitude rooted in their respective faith tradition. If the speakers have or are able to obtain traditional garments from their respective faiths they are to dress accordingly so. The speaking orders have been arranged as follows per the 3 individual groups: Group 1: Hindu, Native American, Catholic; Group 2: Sikh, Mormon, Muslim, Baha'i; Group 3: Buddhist, Jewish, United Unitarian. Currently we have commitments from the Chief of the Lenni Lenape Nation in Delaware, a representative from the Unitarian Universalist Society of Southern Delaware, and a representative from the Baha'i faith.

Following the event there will be a small reception including cookies, coffee, etc. The purpose of the offering/collection is for donation/charity purposes for Thanksgiving. The parking for the event will be at the Wilmington Club and other specified areas by Doug. Attendance limit for the event is 400 with 50 already expected to attend due to presence of children's chorus and parents. Music will be provided by Flora's daughter. There will be a bulletin passed out that includes one paragraph of information per faith on it as well as an agenda and names of speakers and guests. If the event does become sanctioned by the Governor a press release might be possible.

**Council Future Prospects:** Looking forward there is currently a December meeting in the planning stages. Attempts are being made to reach out to potential future Governor John Carney in extending life of Council past the end of this year.

**Next Meeting:** Will be held on Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm at Congregation Beth Shalom. The address will be in the future email to all Council members.

Meeting between Council adjourned at approx. 1:10pm

Submitted by Steven Boone, Secretary, September 22<sup>th</sup>, 2016.